

Message Text

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21 11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-04 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-08 IO-03 CU-04 /086 W

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R 120507Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9142

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,ID

SUBJECT: HAIR

REF : JAKARTA 11721

1. SUMMARY: STUDENTS FROM BANDUNG VISITED PARLIAMENT OCTOBER 10 AND ISSUED SERIES OF WIDELY PUBLICIZED JIBES AND INSULTS (UNMISTAKABLY AIMED AT GENERAL SUMITRO) PROTESTING OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST LONG HAIR. FOLLOWING BASED PRESS ACCOUNTS. END SUMMARY

2. ELEVEN MEMBERS OF BANDUNG INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (ITB) STUDENT COUNCIL CALLED ON EDUCATION AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF PARLIAMENT OCT 10 AND DELIVERED SERIES OF JIBES AT RECENT ANTI-LONG HAIR PRONOUNCEMENTS BY GENERAL SUMITRO AND OTHERS. STUDENTS, MOST OF WHOM WERE APPROPRIATELY HIRSUTE, ALSO SHARPLY QUESTIONED LEGAL BASIS FOR MUCH FEARED KOPKAMTIB (DEFENSE SECURITY AGENCY) WHICH SUMITRO HEADS AND CALLED FOR REVIEW OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS POWERS. THEY CARRIED POSTERS READING

"WHY NO RAIDS ON CORRUPTERS, MANIPULATORS AND SMUGGLERS" AND "WHAT RULES OUR COUNTRY, LAWS OR APPETITE?" STUDENTS ALSO ISSUED OPEN LETTER (WIDELY REPRINTED IN PRESS) QUERYING "CAN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LONG HAIR AND MORALITY BE PROVED?" AND OBSERVING "THIS COUNTRY IS COUNTRY OF A THOUSAND POSSIBILITIES. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT ALL THESE ARE ONLY THE MANIFESTATION OF THE AMBITION OF PROMINENT AND POWERFUL INDIVIDUALS?"

3. AMGBG MANY UNMISTAKABLE REJOINDERS TO SUMITRO REMARKS REPORTED REFTEL WAS A POSTER SLOGAN READING " WE HAVE NOT COME HERE BECAUSE ARE HEEDLESS AND APATHETIC ABOUT OUR COUNTRY". (SUMITRO SAID LONG HAIR BREEDS APATHY.) INSULTS AIMED AT THE PORTLY GENERAL INCLUDED RECITATION OF POEM ENTITLED "FAIRY TALE OF THE FAT WATER BUFFALO". UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL WAS FROM LEADER OF DELEGATION AND ITB COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, 25-YEAR OLD CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENT MUSLIM TAMPUBOLON, WHO REPORTEDLY PRONOUNCED "LONG HAIR IS BETTER THAN FATNESS."

4. IN RESPONSE FOLLOWING DAY DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN GEN. SUMRAHADI SAID THAT ALTHOUGH "NO ONE IS HAPPY WITH KOPKAMTIB" IT WOULD BE NEEDED UNTIL SOCIETY DEVELOPED A SENSE OF ORDER. HE REAFFIRMED KOPKAMTIB'S RIGHT TO BE CONCERNED WITH MORALITY.

5. COMMENT: THIS REFRESHING OUTBURST OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES (RARE THESE DAYS) APPARENTLY HASN'T YET LANDED ANYBODY IN JAIL. IT WAS AN OUTGROWTH OF EVENTS IN BANDUNG WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN COMMEMORATING DEATH OF STUDENT MATYR RENE GOENRAD THREE YEARS AGO AT HANDS OF POLICE.
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